

Message Text

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PAGE 01 COPENH 01682 101844Z
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 IO-13 ISO-00 EB-08 AGRE-00 CEA-01 CIAE-00
COME-00 DODE-00 FRB-03 H-01 INR-10 INT-05 L-03
LAB-04 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 CTME-00 AID-05 SS-15
STR-07 ITC-01 TRSE-00 USIA-06 SP-02 SOE-02 OMB-01
DOE-11 /117 W

-----059590 110221Z /64

R 101542Z MAR 78
FM AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6129
INFO EC COLLECTIVE
USMISSION GENEVA

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PASS AGRICULTURE ELECTRONICALLY

BRUSSELS ALSO FOR USEEC; GENEVA ALSO FOR USMTN

EO 11652: N/A
TAGS: EAGR, MTN, EEC, DA
SUBJ: DANISH PRESS REPORTS DISPUTE IN US/EC AGRICULTURAL
TALKS

1. UNDER HEADLINE "BRUTAL TRADE DISPUTE THREATENS", LEADING
COPENHAGEN DAILY, BERLINGSKE TIDENDE (CONSERVATIVE),
MARCH 10 CARRIED REPORT FROM ITS WASHINGTON CORRESPONDENT
ON EC AGRICULTURAL COMMISSIONER GUNDELACH'S PRESS BRIEFING
AT CONCLUSION OF US/EC AGRICULTURAL TALKS. GUNDELACH IS
CITED AS HAVING SAID THAT TALKS HAD PROVED TO BE A BRUTAL
CONFRONTATION BECAUSE AMERICANS HAD NOT DEMONSTRATED ANY
WILLINGNESS TO MEET WEST EUROPEAN DEMANDS FOR BROAD GRAIN
AND DAIRY MARKETING AGREEMENTS INSTEAD OF LIMITED AGREEMENTS
ON INDIVIDUAL COMMODITIES. HE SAID, ACCORDING TO PRESS REPORT,
THAT UNLESS US DEMONSTRATES SUCH WILLINGNESS DURING NEXT
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MONTH OR TWO, GENEVA NEGOTIATIONS ON AGRICULTURE WILL
BREAK DOWN AND THEREBY ALSO IN INDUSTRIAL AND OTHER AREAS.

2. GUNDELACH, THE REPORT STATES, SAID THE NEGOTIATIONS HAD
REACHED A DECISIVE POINT AND EMPHASIZED THAT A DIFFICULT
POLITICAL DECISION NOW RESTS ON THE AMERICANS AS THE EUROPEANS
REGARD CONSESSIONS ALONG THE ABOVE LINES ESSENTIAL TO CONCLUDING

THE TRADE NEGOTIATIONS. HE SAID, HOWEVER, HE UNDERSTOOD HOW SERIOUS A POLITICAL PROBLEM AGRICULTURE, PARTICULARLY THE DAIRY SECTOR, IS FOR THE US GOVERNMENT AND ADDED THAT THIS SECTOR IS TO AN EQUAL EXTENT DYNAMITE IN EUROPE. HE SAID THAT CONTACTS WITH THE US WILL BE MAINTAINED AND HOPED THEY WOULD RESULT IN MOVING THE NEGOTIATION MACHINERY AHEAD IN GENEVA. THE REPORT MENTIONED THAT AMBASSADOR STRAUSS SHOULD HAVE PARTICIPATED IN THE PRESS BRIEFING BUT DID NOT SHOW UP.

3. COMMENT: THE TONE OF ARTICLE SEEKS TO PLACE RESPONSIBILITY FOR A POSSIBLE GENEVA BREAKDOWN ON AGRICULTURE SQUARELY ON US SHOULDERS. IF QUOTED CORRECTLY, THE COMMISSIONER WOULD ALSO APPEAR TO BE UTILIZING THE NOT UNUSUAL TACTICAL ULTIMATUM-TYPE APPROACH OF THE EC TO FORCE CONCESSIONS FROM ITS TRADING PARTNERS.

DEAN

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